



MINUTES

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN

11/29/2011

6th FLOOR HEARING ROOM

Present: Chairman Betsy DeWitt, Selectman Nancy Daly,
Selectman Jesse Mermell, Selectman Richard Benka,
Selectman Kenneth Goldstein

ANNOUNCEMENTS

[Selectmen to announce recent and/or upcoming Events of Community Interest.](#)

Selectman Goldstein updated the Board on the Brookline/Newton Thanksgiving game.

Thank you to Jean Springer at the Senior Center

Coffee Hour for Michael O'Reilly

Worcester honoring Brookline Firefighters

SELECTMEN UPDATES

Reports by individual Selectmen on activities related to carrying out the responsibilities of the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

[Public Comment period for citizens who requested to speak to the Board regarding Town issues not on the Calendar.](#)

Representatives from the PEC Chet Reilly and Sa left at an impass representing most vulnerable members facing a crisis out of pocket expenses child leukemia over 4k out of pocket, unexpected 3-4 k expense is a major hardship for a middle class family. Nowhere was it in writing when the PEC and the Town negotiated the GIC. The Town has saved 18 million dollars by entering into the GIC. over the years over 58m hra account. Is there a difference between us. This is just about being fair we all did our part a decent community should help those who need it most. Hope to work with the Town, and resolve it now without further debate. Chet Town was projecting layoff and cuts at the time we both stuck up and did our bargain maybe some buyers remorse.

Betsy Town and PEC in negotiations for the record the BOS has authorized TA and Sandra to negotiate on the BOS behalf.

MISCELLANEOUS

Approval of miscellaneous items pg. 3, #s 13-20 licenses, vouchers, and contracts.

DELETED

[FIRE DEPARTMENT - PERSONNEL](#)

Question of approving the following promotions within the Fire Department:

Deputy Chief Robert Ward to Deputy Chief of Operations
Captain Michael Sullivan to Deputy Chief
Lieutenant Kyle McEachern to Fire Captain
Temp Lieutenant Todd Cantor to Perm. Fire Lieutenant

Chief Ford stated that this is a good time to be the Fire Chief in rewarding those who work hard and take leadership within the Department. He interviewed several candidates and feels that Deputy Chief Ward has the qualifications. He briefed the Board on his history.

Captain Michael Sullivan gave a brief history.

Lt, Kyle McEachern gave a brief history will receive Massachusetts Award

Lt Todd Cantor to be appointed as permanent Lt.

The Board expressed their thanks and gratitude for their dedication to both the firefighters and their families. The Board wished them a long and healthy career, and relayed that they owe the leadership of the Department, and an important part of the community keeping us all safe. The Board noted that they know who the leaders are and have heard of them over the years. The Board thanked Chief Ford for his prompt recommendations. Board proud and grateful to the candidates.

Voted to approve Question of approving the following promotions within the Fire Department:

Deputy Chief Robert Ward to Deputy Chief of Operations
Captain Michael Sullivan to Deputy Chief
Lieutenant Kyle McEachern to Fire Captain
Temp Lieutenant Todd Cantor to Perm. Fire Lieutenant

Aye: Betsy DeWitt, Nancy Daly, Jesse Mermell, Richard Benka, Kenneth Goldstein

POLICE DEPARTMENT-PERSONNEL

Question of authorizing the filling of a vacancy in the position of School Traffic Supervisor/Parking Control Officer (ST01) within the Police Department.

Chief O'Leary stated that this vacancy stems from a retirement. This is a critical position that works as a crossing guard at the Lawrence School. The new candidate has been working part-time and will be moved to a full-time status.

Voted to approve Question of authorizing the filling of a vacancy in the position of School Traffic Supervisor/Parking Control Officer (ST01) within the Police Department.

Aye: Betsy DeWitt, Nancy Daly, Jesse Mermell, Richard Benka, Kenneth Goldstein

PUBLIC WORKS - PERSONNEL

Question of authorizing the filling of the following seven (7) vacancies within the Public Works Department:

(1) Pipelayer Laborer (LN-2)
(2) Gardener Laborer (LN2)
(3) Park Maintenance Craftspersons (LN-3)
(1) Motor Equipment Operation #2 (LN-3)

DPW Commissioner Papp reviewed the vacant positions. These positions are entry level or close to entry level, and some are available due to promotions. Mr. Papp hopes to have these positions filled by the winter season.

Voted to approve Question of authorizing the filling of the following seven (7) vacancies within the Public Works Department:

- (1) Pipelayer Laborer (LN-2)
- (2) Gardener Laborer (LN2)
- (3) Park Maintenance Craftspersons (LN-3)
- (1) Motor Equipment Operation #2 (LN-3)

Aye: Betsy DeWitt, Nancy Daly, Jesse Mermell, Richard Benka, Kenneth Goldstein

WATER AND SEWER RATE UPDATE

Public Works Commissioner Andrew Pappastergion will appear to update the Board on the Water/Sewer Rates.

DPW Commissioner Papp updated the Board on the new rate structure. The staff has been able to calculate the difference for residents that call, and in most cases, the new rates are actually lower than previous years invoices.

The goal in setting the new rate structure was to recover some of the revenues independent over the sale of water. There is a cost to maintaining the infrastructure, that has not been captured in past years. The average user realized an annual decrease of \$20.00. The minority of users, those buildings with a large number of units showed an annual increase that ranged from \$120.00 to \$215.00 per unit. They will take a look at an exemption program in the near future, and will determine what the qualifications will be.

TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

Public Hearing in accordance with G.L.c. 40.S.56 on the question of the adoption of the percentages of the local tax levy to be borne by each class of real property and personal property for the 2012 Fiscal Year.

Chief Assessor Gary McCabe introduced the members of the Board of Assessors, and presented a Powerpoint of the FY12 tax clarifications.

Under prop 2 1/2 Overall there has been a shift of .21% from residential to commercial most of this is a result of a change in utilities. The utilities will see a large increase in taxes due to a revaluation of utility personal property accounts based on the SJC Boston Gas decision, and Mr. McCabe anticipates an appeal filed on this by the utility companies. Single family homes went up a little bit in value resulting in a tax shift from condominiums to single family homes. Condominium properties will see a slight decrease in taxes in FY12. Three family units also saw an increase in value this year. Selectman Benka asked if an assessment to sale ratios in multi family property is available for review. Mr. McCabe replied that he will get that to him, although he is not sure about mixing the data of multiple years; it may not provide adequate information. Selectman Benka noted that FY12 will be difficult to spread the rate equally based on the changes in single family values. Mr. McCabe added that the single family home value increased about 3.3%. Factors changed based on different market trends this year; not every single family will see that increase. This year was also a re-evaluation year which contributed to the changes.

Mr. Harry Robinson from the Brookline Chamber of Commerce, and representing the

CCM hopes that the Board will keep the present commercial tax rate at 1.73.

Commercial value has seen an increase in the median.

BROOKONLINE UPDATE

[Chief Information Officer Kevin Stokes will appear to update the Board on Brookonline.](#)

Chief Information Officer Kevin Stokes updated the Board on technology enhancements. One of the big changes is online services that includes online payments, and user friendly navigation. They will continue to grow the Town's website. Brookonline is launching and is a real-time collaboration between citizens and Town services. There are three primary entities that include information, notification and payments categories. The information enhancements will allow residents to narrow in on meetings and information to specifically identify what it is they are looking for. Notification will allow citizens to report any problems to Public Works, Public Safety or miscellaneous. Residents can provide a picture, description, and location along with the notification. The resident will be able to monitor their request. Some mobile applications are available and they are evaluating this market, based on the cost to produce them. The technology is now connected to social media allowing a streamline in communication. It has also allowed individuals to control which notifications they want to receive. The payment section allows paperless payments that includes both purchases like vital records and payments like taxes. Of note is the fee for credit card processing for property taxes. Mr. Stokes will continue to update the Board on the progress of Brookonline.

MISCELLANEOUS

[Question of approving the minutes of November 22, 2011.](#)

Voted to approve 13. Question of approving the minutes of November 22, 2011.

Aye: Betsy DeWitt, Nancy Daly, Jesse Mermell, Richard Benka, Kenneth Goldstein

[Question of authorizing the Town Administrator to execute a contract with the Department of Energy Resources for Green Community Grant funding.](#)

Assistant Town Administrator Melissa Goff stated that this is for

Selectman Mermell added that more details will be forthcoming. Selectman Benka noted that the grant does not have a condition on it which is a benefit.

Voted to approve 14. Question of authorizing the Town Administrator or the Deputy Town Administrator to execute a contract with the Department of Energy Resources for Green Community Grant funding.

Aye: Betsy DeWitt, Nancy Daly, Jesse Mermell, Richard Benka, Kenneth Goldstein

[Question of accepting a Grant in the amount of \\$35,000 from the Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\) Grant Program to be used to fund, in part, the salary of the Domestic Violence Advocate.](#)

Chief O'Leary stated that this grant allows the Department to employ Officer Doreen Gallagher as a domestic violence position that works between several departments in Town including the schools and the Health Department.

Voted to approve 15. Question of accepting a Grant in the amount of \$35,000 from the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Grant Program to be used to fund, in part, the salary of the Domestic Violence Advocate.

Aye: Betsy DeWitt, Nancy Daly, Jesse Mermell, Richard Benka, Kenneth Goldstein

Question of executing and approving authorization for the lease purchases of \$543,792 worth of equipment for use by the DPW Highway and Sanitation Division with SunTrust for 3 years at an annual cost of \$185,278.59 as follows:

<u>2011 Volvo L120 Wheel Loader</u>	<u>\$ 197,500</u>
<u>42004220 5A0018 - Roadway</u>	
<u>2011 Volvo VHD Cab and Chassis with Hookloader</u>	<u>\$ 250,959</u>
<u>42004320 5A0018 - Cleaning</u>	
<u>2011 Chevrolet 3500 Silverado Dump Truck</u>	<u>\$ 47,610</u>
<u>46004650 5A0018 - Public Grounds</u>	
<u>2011 Stellar Hookloader</u>	<u>\$ 47,723</u>
<u>42004320 5A0018 - Cleaning</u>	

Chief Procurement Officer Dave Gean stated that this is the yearly lease for DPW equipment. selectman Benka asked why it is cost effective to lease rather than buy. DPW Commission Papp replied that they have a capital budget with a rigid schedule on all of their equipment. It is impossible to replace everything that is needed for the budgeted \$750k

Voted to approve 16. Question of executing and approving authorization for the lease purchases of \$543,392 worth of equipment for use by the DPW Highway and Sanitation Division with SunTrust for 3 years at an annual cost of \$185,278.59 as follows:

2011 Volvo L120 Wheel Loader	\$ 197,500
42004220 5A0018 - Roadway	
2011 Volvo VHD Cab and Chassis with Hookloader	\$ 250,959
42004320 5A0018 - Cleaning	
2011 Chevrolet 3500 Silverado Dump Truck	nbsp; 47,610
46004650 5A0018 - Public Grounds	
2011 Stellar Hookloader	nbsp; 41,323
42004320 5A0018 - Cleaning	

Aye: Betsy DeWitt, Nancy Daly, Jesse Mermell, Richard Benka, Kenneth Goldstein

Question of granting a Permit to Serve All Kinds of Alcoholic Beverages (non-sales) to the Board of Library Trustees in connection with a Holiday Party to be held on December 2, 2011 from 5pm-8pm at the Main Library, 361 Washington Street.

Voted to approve 17. Question of granting a Permit to Serve All Kinds of Alcoholic Beverages (non-sales) to the Board of Library Trustees in connection with a Holiday Party to be held on December 2, 2011 from 5pm-8pm at the Main Library, 361 Washington Street.

Aye: Betsy DeWitt, Nancy Daly, Jesse Mermell, Richard Benka, Kenneth Goldstein

Question of granting a Permit for the Sale of All Kinds of Alcoholic Beverages (non-sale) to

Larz Anderson Auto Museum in connection with a Holiday Party to be held on December 7, 2011 from 6:00pm - 10:30pm at 15 Newton Street.

Voted to approve 18. Question of granting a Permit for the Sale of All Kinds of Alcoholic Beverages (non-sale) to Larz Anderson Auto Museum in connection with a Holiday Party to be held on December 7, 2011 from 6:00pm - 10:30pm at 15 Newton Street.

Aye: Betsy DeWitt, Nancy Daly, Jesse Mermell, Richard Benka, Kenneth Goldstein

Question of granting a temporary Wine and Malt beverages license to Brookline Access Television in connection with a Networking Event to be held on December 8, 2011 from 5pm-8pm at 46 Tappan Street (Lobby)

Voted to approve 19. Question of granting a temporary Wine and Malt beverages license to Brookline Access Television in connection with a Networking Event to be held on December 8, 2011 from 5pm-8pm at 46 Tappan Street (Lobby)

Aye: Betsy DeWitt, Nancy Daly, Jesse Mermell, Richard Benka, Kenneth Goldstein